

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR UNDER SECRETARY COOPER

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINGSTON 05300 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRIDGETOWN, NASSAU, HAVANA, GEORGETOWN, PORT OF SPAIN, AND
USUN NEW YORK DATED JULY 5, 1978.

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: MANLEY DEFENDS CUBANS WHILE LEFT-WING COHORTS LAMBAST
US POLICY

1. JULY 3 DAILY NEWS REPORTS A SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER
MANLEY APPLAUDING THE CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA. A LETTER TO THE
EDITOR IN THE SAME EDITION PICKS UP THE THEME IN A TRONGER
VEIN, ASSERTING THAT THE US IS THE "ARCH-ENEMY" OF AFRICAN
NATIONALISM. COLUMNIST MARK FIGUEROA CHIMES IN WITH A PIECE
IN WHICH HE BRANDS UNDERSECRETARY COOPER'S UPCOMING VISIT AS
AN IMPERIALIST MANEUVER TO RESTRICT JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC OPTIONS.

2. IN A CONSTITUENCY MEETING ON JULY 2, MANLEY REPORTEDLY
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SAID THAT ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA HAD AN "INALIENABLE RIGHT"
TO INVITE THE CUBANS. "WE APPROVE OF THE CAUSE WHEN CUBA
SAVED ANGOLA FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND ETHIOPIA FROM THE CIA.
LET CUBA KNOW WE REGARD IT AS PRINCIPLED BEHAVIOUR. THEY
DID OUR WORK." IN ADDITION TO CUBA, MANLEY ALSO SINGLED
OUT NORWAY AND VENEZUELA AS "TRADITIONAL FRIENDS" (NO
OTHER FRIENDS MENTIONED).

3. FIGUEROA LUMPS THE VISITS OF AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AND UNDERSECRETARY COOPER TOGETHER AS A MANIFESTATION OF THE "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED" CARTER POLICY FOR THE CARIBBEAN. FIGUEROA CITES A SPEECH BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON IN FEBRUARY AS OUTLINING THE POLICY, AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT COUNTRIES LIKE JAMAICA FROM TAKING ADVANTE OF THE DIVISIONS IN THE "DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES" TO GET BETTER AID, DEBT RELIEF, ETC., TERMS. "CARTER'S POLICY IS THEREFORE TO BRING ABOUT A COORDINATION WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO RESTRICT OUR OPTIONS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BY CHANNELING AID THROUGH THE SO-CALLED CARIBBEAN CONSORTIUM, THUS MAKING US MORE VULNERABLE TO THE IMPOSITION OF IMF-TYPE CONDITIONS."

4. COMMENT: WE REPORT MANLEY'S SPEECH AND THE OTHER ARTICLES AS TIMELY INDICATORS THAT MANLEY HAS NOT BLURRED HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD'S POLICIES OPPOSED TO US VIEWS, AND THAT THE BITTER ANTI-US RHETORIC CONTINUES UNABATED AMONG THE LEFT WING. THIS TYPE OF LEFT-WING THOUGHT IS REPRESENTED BY AN IMPORTANT FACTION IN MANLEY'S PARTY, TOWARD WHICH HE SEEMS TO BE LEANING OF LATE. WE DO NOT EQUATE FIGUEROA WITH MANLEY, BUT THIS FAR LEFT JOURNALIST IS OFTEN USED AS A POINT MAN. ON CUBA, MANLEY HAS NEVER ATTEMPTED TO CONCEAL HIS WARM APPROVAL OF CASTRO.
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